

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 3, 2003, has been reviewed carefully, and the application amended in a sincere effort to obviate the Section 112, paragraph 2 rejections and the objections.

With respect to the comment in connection with the proposed specification amendment, the revised text provided herewith is identical with the original text as it appeared on page 28, lines 9 through 18 except that a question to the inventor in the form of "(SKIP?)" which was provided in an early draft and carried through to final form has been deleted.

It is noted with appreciation that the previous claim objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action of July 16, 2002 have been withdrawn and that claims 1 through 19 were deemed free of the prior art.

Section 112, second paragraph, claims 1 and 10

Appropriate amendments have been made to claim 1 to obviate the rejection on the basis of insufficient antecedent basis and to obviate the objection based upon the phrase "at least one of".

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested on the basis of the following remarks. It is respectfully submitted that this embodiment has an antecedent basis in claim 8 which states "introducing a silicon containing sample and a first acid into a first compartment and introducing a second acid into a second compartment". Claim 9, which depends from claim 8, recites employing nitric acid as the first acid and hydrochloric acid as the second. Claim 10, which depends from claim 9, recites distilling the hydrochloric acid out of the second compartment and into the first compartment and distilling SiS_4 out of the first compartment into the second compartment. This aspect of the invention is disclosed in detail in connection with Figure 5 on page 18, line 9 through page 19, line 9. Please note the presence in Figure 5 of the drawings of SiF_4 along with the associated text material and the reference to silicon at page 19, lines 6 through 9.

Claim Objections

The objected-to language in claims 1, 11 and 17 has been amended.

The sole remaining objection deals with claims 5 and 18 in respect of the issue of whether they further limit claim 1 which recited "removing at least a portion of said gas".

Reconsideration of the objection to claims 5 and 18 is respectfully requested.

More specifically, claim 1, as amended, recites removing at least a portion of the gas phase from the unvolatilized portion of the sample while claims 5 and 18 refine this recital to withdrawing at least a portion of the gas phase "from said vessel".

As it would appear that claims 1 through 19 are in proper form for issuance of a notice of allowance, such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold B. Silverman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Arnold B. Silverman
Registration No. 22,614
Attorney for Applicant

412.566.2077